

A CHAMPIONS HOA EXCLUSIVE

DISCOVER BOWLING GREEN

RECOMMENDATIONS & INSIGHTS

CORVETTE MUSEUM

See an impressive collection of Corvettes and explore the history of this sports car, which is made exclusively in Bowling Green

MAMMOTH CAVE

Check out all that Kentucky's only National Park has to offer, including more than 400 miles of explored passageways

LOCAL DINING

The local dining scene in Kentucky's third largest city is impressive and we'll help you find just the right spot

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TRAVEL IDEAS

Fast Cars, National Landmarks, and Kentucky Flavor: The Perfect Day in Bowling Green

Just two hours southwest of nicholasville, Bowling Green is an ideal Kentucky day trip, offering adventure, natural beauty, and outstanding food. Whether you're a car enthusiast, an outdoor explorer, or simply seeking a change of scenery, this vibrant city of 80,000 in south-central Kentucky—also home to Western Kentucky University—boasts an impressive variety of attractions within a short drive. With a little planning and an early start, you can experience some of the state's most iconic destinations in a single unforgettable day.

From the roar of a Corvette on a professional racetrack to the quiet wonder of the world's longest known cave system, Bowling Green offers experiences that appeal to a wide range of travelers. Add a scenic lakeside hike and a meal at one of the area's favorite local restaurants, and you have the recipe for a memorable getaway without the hassle of a long road trip. Here's how to make the most of a day in one of Kentucky's most exciting destinations. As you plan your day, remember that Bowling Green is in the Central Time Zone, which is one hour behind Nicholasville (Eastern Time Zone). Noon in Nicholasville is 11:00 a.m. in Bowling Green.





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EXPLORE MAMMOTH CAVE

Take in all that Kentucky's Only National Park has to Offer

A visit to Mammoth Cave National Park is a highlight of any trip to south-central Kentucky. Located less than 40 minutes from Bowling Green, the park boasts the world's longest known cave system, with over 400 miles of explored passageways and new discoveries still being made. Designated as both a UNESCO World Heritage Site and an International Biosphere Reserve, Mammoth Cave offers a unique opportunity to explore one of North America's most remarkable natural wonders.

The best way to experience the cave is by taking one of the park's guided tours. Several options are available, from easy walks through vast underground chambers to more adventurous excursions involving climbing stairs and navigating narrow passages. Along the way, rangers share stories about the cave's geology, early exploration, and the people who lived and worked in the area over centuries. Reservations are highly recommended, especially during the busy summer season. Don't forget a sweater or light jacket, as underground temperatures remain 54 degrees year-round.



While the park is renowned for its underground landscape, there's also an abundance to explore above ground. Over 80 miles of hiking trails meander through forests, rolling hills, and picturesque river valleys. Popular paths, such as the Cedar Sink Trail and Green River Bluffs Trail, allow visitors to experience the park's diverse ecosystems and enjoy stunning views of the surrounding countryside.

The Green River, flowing through the park's center, offers additional recreational activities. Canoeing and kayaking are excellent ways to explore the area, providing peaceful scenic views from the water and opportunities to spot wildlife along the riverbanks. The river also plays a crucial role in the formation of the cave system, making it an integral part of the park's natural history.

Wildlife enthusiasts will discover much to appreciate throughout the park. Mammoth Cave National Park is home to deer, wild turkeys, foxes, and a wide array of bird species. The cave itself supports several unique creatures adapted to life in complete darkness, including



rare cave fish, salamanders, and bats. Birdwatchers and nature photographers often find excellent opportunities within the park's forests and open meadows.

Whether your interest lies in history, geology, hiking, paddling, or simply experiencing a truly unique destination, Mammoth Cave offers something for everyone. Its blend of underground wonders and beautiful outdoor landscapes makes it a perfect addition to a day trip from Bowling Green and an unforgettable stop on any Kentucky travel itinerary. Located only an hour and forty-five minutes from Lawrenceburg, on the way to Bowling Green, you may want to make this your first stop of the day, then venture on 40 minutes to the city itself.



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NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM

The National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green is an exciting, must-see attraction for automobile enthusiasts and one of the area's most popular experiences. Conveniently located just off Interstate 65, the museum celebrates America's iconic sports car with a collection of beautifully restored Corvettes, historic exhibits, racing memorabilia, and interactive displays. Even visitors less interested in cars often find themselves captivated by the museum's blend of history, engineering, and American culture.

Inside, visitors can trace the Corvette's evolution from its 1953 introduction to today's high-performance models, with vehicles from every generation on display. Exhibits highlight technological innovations, famous racing victories, and the Corvette's significant role in American automotive history. A particularly popular display recounts the dramatic 2014 sinkhole event, which swallowed several rare Corvettes and garnered international attention. Visitors can easily spend several hours exploring the galleries, admiring rare concept vehicles, and learning about the craftsmanship behind each Corvette. The









museum features a gift shop with merchandise, perfect for taking home a souvenir. Guided tours and special events are frequently offered for those seeking a deeper dive into Corvette history.

Just across the street, the General Motors Corvette Assembly Plant stands as the world's sole Corvette manufacturing facility. Subject to availability and production schedules, visitors may arrange a factory tour to witness the assembly process firsthand. Seeing these legendary sports cars built on the production line adds another fascinating dimension to the Corvette experience.

For many, the ultimate highlight is the chance to drive a Corvette at the nearby NCM Motorsports Park. This professionally designed road course offers driving experiences where guests get behind the wheel of a Corvette and explore its performance. With professional instructors providing guidance, drivers can learn racing techniques while navigating the track's curves and straightaways.

Whether admiring vintage models, learning about automotive innovation, or experiencing the thrill of driving a Corvette on a racetrack, the National Corvette Museum is an unforgettable experience,.

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FOOD & **DRINK**



After a day of exploring caves, hiking scenic trails, or driving a Corvette, visitors to Bowling Green discover an unexpected pleasure: a dining scene rivaling that of much larger cities. From elegant downtown establishments to chef-driven restaurants showcasing local ingredients, Bowling Green offers diverse culinary experiences, making it a destination for food lovers and travelers alike. Whether you seek a celebratory dinner or a memorable meal to cap off a day of sightseeing, the city boasts several standout options.

440 Main sets the standard for fine dining in Bowling Green. Housed in a beautifully restored historic building downtown, the restaurant blends Southern hospitality with Gulf Coast and Cajun influences. Its menu features expertly prepared seafood, steaks, and regional specialties, all served in a sophisticated and welcoming atmosphere. Its long-standing







reputation for quality and consistency makes it a favorite for special occasions, business dinners, and upscale dining experiences.

Another local gem, Javier's Cuisine, has cultivated a loyal following for its exceptional cuisine and intimate ambiance. Known for blending international influences with fresh ingredients and creative preparation, Javier's offers a dining experience unique to south-central Kentucky. The restaurant's meticulous attention to detail, thoughtfully crafted menu, and personalized service have established it as a premier destination for a memorable evening out.

Anna's Greek Restaurant offers a unique experience for those with a complex palate. Visitors rave about the quality of the food and attentive service, but they often mention the ambiance. Anna's is housed in an old church with vaulted ceilings and extensive stained glass windows. The menu features typical Mediterranean items like hummus and spanakopita, but it also has a number of items not typically seen in similar restaurants, such as Avgolemono Soup or Arni Youvesti.

Gerard's 1907 Tavern offers a distinct yet equally appealing experience. Set in a historic downtown building, it combines rustic charm with a modern approach to American cuisine. Diners can expect creative interpretations of classic dishes, locally sourced ingredients, and a carefully curated cocktail program. The tavern's relaxed elegance and inviting atmosphere make it a popular gathering spot for both residents and visitors seeking a uniquely local dining experience.

Together, these four restaurants highlight the depth and diversity of Bowling Green's culinary scene. Whether you're enjoying a refined dinner at 440 Main, savoring the unique flavors of Javier's, indulging in Mediterranean specialties at Anna's, or relaxing with friends at Gerard's 1907 Tavern, exceptional food is an essential part of the Bowling Green experience. For those planning a day trip or weekend getaway, these establishments provide the perfect conclusion to a memorable visit to one of Kentucky's most dynamic destinations.

PARKS & REC

Bowling Green offers a surprisingly rich blend of hiking opportunities and urban green spaces, establishing itself as a premier destination for outdoor recreation. While many know the city for its Corvette industry and proximity to Mammoth Cave, locals often highlight its parks and trail systems as key assets. From wooded paths to lakeside trails and nature preserves, Bowling Green provides diverse outdoor experiences for both casual walkers and avid hikers.

Lost River Cave stands out as the crown jewel of Bowling Green's outdoor attractions. This protected natural area on the city's south side seamlessly combines geological wonders, local history, and accessible hiking. The park features over two miles of nature trails winding through forests and wetlands. Although famous for Kentucky's only underground boat tour, many locals visit simply to enjoy the peaceful trails and natural scenery. The site also boasts a fascinating history, having served as a Native American shelter, Civil War campsite, and even an underground nightclub in the twentieth century.

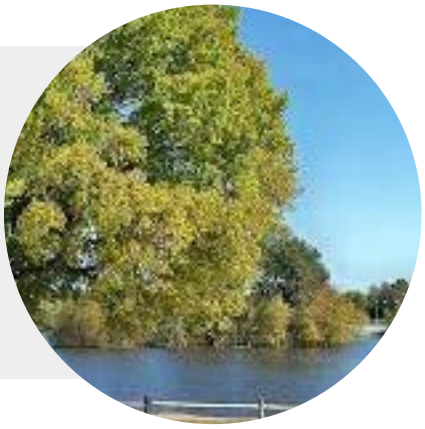
For those seeking a larger park with varied recreational options, Basil Griffin Park is a top Bowling Green destination. Centered around Jesse Thornton Lake, the park offers walking trails that loop through open green spaces and provide scenic waterfront views. The relatively flat terrain makes it ideal for families and casual exercise. Beyond its trails, the park features disc golf, sports fields, playgrounds, and picnic areas. The combination of water, wildlife, and open space provides a relaxing atmosphere year-round.

Local residents frequently recommend connecting sections of the Greenways system with visits to Lost River Cave, creating longer routes that showcase different parts of the city. These interconnected paths allow hikers to enjoy wooded corridors, river views, and open recreational areas within an urban environment.

What makes Bowling Green particularly appealing to outdoor enthusiasts is the variety available within a relatively small area. This combination of natural features, accessible hiking, and well-maintained public spaces gives Bowling Green a distinctive outdoor character, continuously attracting residents and visitors seeking a connection with nature.

TIPS FOR TRAVELERS

When visiting these parks, be sure to wear comfortable shoes and bring plenty of water, especially during the warmer months. Check park hours and any special event schedules in advance to make the most of your experience and avoid any surprises.





We hope this newsletter has sparked your excitement to explore all that Bowling Green has to offer. From charming local shops and delicious eateries to scenic parks and unique attractions, the city has something to make every first-time visitor's day memorable. Remember to take your time, soak in the friendly atmosphere, and embrace the unexpected moments that make travel so special. Planning ahead with the tips and resources we've shared will help you enjoy a smooth, fun, and fulfilling day in Bowling Green.

As you set out on your adventure, don't hesitate to ask locals for their favorite spots—they often have the best insider recommendations. Keep this handy as your personal guide, and be sure to capture plenty of photos to treasure your visit. Whether you're seeking relaxation, exploration, or a bit of both, Bowling Green welcomes you with open arms and plenty to discover. Safe travels and happy day-tripping!

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OUR LITTLE **BLACK BOOK**

This section provides all the essential details you need to effortlessly plan your visit to the suggested businesses and activities. You'll find comprehensive information for each location, including web addresses, phone numbers, physical addresses, and hours of operation. Whether you're seeking a cozy café, an exciting local attraction, or a beautiful park to unwind in, this section has you covered. With all these crucial details readily available, maximizing your day trips will be simple and stress-free. Remember the difference in time zones - Bowling Green is in the Central Time Zone, one hour earlier than Nicholasville. All times listed here are local to Bowling Green.

Dining Options

440 Main

American food with a Cajun/Creole influence
440 East Main Avenue, Bowling Green
Phone: 270-793-0450
www.440main.com
Tuesday-Thursday 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Friday & Saturday 4:00 p.m. to Close
Sunday & Monday closed
Cost: $25 - $50 per person

Anna's Greek Restaurant

Mediteranian Fine Dining
1202 State Street, Bowling Green
Phone: 270-846-2662
www.annasrestaurants.com
Monday - Wednesday 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Friday & Saturday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Sunday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Cost: $20 - $30 per person

Gerard's 1907 Tavern

Elevated comfort food, burgers, and sandwiches
935 College Street, Bowling Green
Phone: 270-904-8133
www.gerards1907tavern.com
Monday 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Tuesday – Thursday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. lunch,
5 to 9 p.m. dinner
Friday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. lunch,
5 to 9 p.m. dinner
Sunday closed
Cost: $20 - $30 per person

Javier's Cuisine

Authentic Mexican cuisine with fusion influences
729 Chestnut Street, Bowling Green
Phone: 270-495-1451
www.javierscuisine.com
Tuesday - Saturday 4:00 p.m. to close
Sunday & Monday closed
Cost: $10 - $20 per person

Automotive Experiences

National Corvette Museum

Showcasing Chevrolet's Corvette
350 Corvette Drive, Bowling Green
Phone: 270-781-7973